

# Personality, Culture Development Cited By Players Director

TO GIVE PEOPLE an outlet for their emotions, to develop the total personality and to build a finer type of theater, and consequently a better culture, in Torrance—that is the three-fold purpose of the Torrance Community Players as outlined by Dan Desmond, director.

An outgrowth of the summer drama classes sponsored by the Adult Education Department of the city Unified School District, the Players group is a mere babe in the arms of the theater.

It is only two summers old. . . . It has made a bright, beginning in realizing the purpose Desmond is directing. It has progressed from the one-act realm to the three-act world.

LAST SUMMER, the complete effort of the Players was the production of three one-act plays. This summer, a three-act show, "Our Town" is actively in rehearsal for opening night, Aug. 1 and 2, in the Torrance High School Auditorium.

Tickets are on sale now at 50 cents per person and may be obtained from the director or any cast member. "It is part of our program," Desmond said, "to bring Broadway successes to Torrance at prices anyone can afford."

Desmond chose "Our Town" because it "gives almost everyone a chance to participate." He hopes eventually to present a three-act play every two weeks of the six-week summer session giving every member of his class an opportunity to be "behind the footlights."

HIS BIGGEST PROBLEM in developing that program, and in dealing with the Players, is a typical problem of life itself—getting everyone to develop a sense of loyalty to the group, to sacrifice individual time for the good of the group. "Your performance is as strong as your weakest actor," he said. "I try to build each person in the show to get the most out of his potentiality rather than just concentrating on the leads, hoping they will carry the play."

And that potentiality development he strives for is, open to anyone who attends the summer classes, held from 7 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Attendance every evening is not essential to belonging to the group, Desmond said.

A full schedule of stage technique, mood pantomime, acting, production directing, play promotion, and development of personality is given during those hours.

DESMOND does not rely solely on text books to instruct his classes; he has a wide variety of professional and educational experience from which to draw.

The supervising director has appeared in 13 movies, including "A Walk in the Sun" and some of the Charlie Chan series now being re-released on TV. He also has played in Los Angeles stage productions, "Standing Room Only," "The Drunkard" and "The Chocolate Soldier," and the New York version of "The Milky Way."

He toured Europe in the comedy lead with the cast of "Good News," has broadcast over KNX, KMTZ, KGER, KMPC, NBC, WOR, and KRO; and has appeared on television KTLA, KNBH, and five other stations throughout the nation.

His teaching experience includes drama instructor at Los Angeles State College, Torrance High School and Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles. He will fulfill that capacity at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles in the fall.

"OUR TOWN" is the Players' biggest effort thus far; on its success or failure could well depend the future success or failure of the group, Desmond said.

With the production theory Desmond relies on, developing the "shine" of each member of the cast, we kinda think it can't miss!

## SURPRISE PARTY FETES MRS. S. LEVY

When Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levy returned to their home Tuesday evening following the YMCA dinner, they were surprised to find a group of friends gathered there to wish Mrs. Levy "Happy Birthday."

Surprise event was planned for Mrs. Levy by her daughter, Mrs. Edward Schwartz.

Traditional birthday cake and ice cream was served by Mrs. Schwartz at the conclusion of the social hour.

Invited guests who helped Mrs. Levy celebrate this day were Messrs. and Mesdames Charles Jones, Wallace Post, Carl Warner, Grover C. Whyte, and George Peckham.



THE PLAY'S THE THING . . . That is the philosophy of Dan Desmond, director of forthcoming "Our Town" play, to be presented by the Torrance Community Players. "I've been in show business all my life—and it IS my life," he said. (Herald photo).



SHOW SCENE . . . Romantic leads and the stage manager rehearse the drugstore scene in "Our Town," slated for Aug. 1-2 in the Torrance High School auditorium. The scene, Director Dan Desmond said, is one of the highlights of the play, and has been a challenge to actors and actresses since first produced in 1939. It is the time when George, played by Charles Rich, left, and Emily, Barbara Burkeman, first discover they are in love after having lived next door to each other for 16 years. At the extreme right is Duane Ryan as the stage manager. (Herald photo).

## 'After-Game' Activity Set By Lionesses

An after-game get-together will be held by the Lioness Club Wednesday at WALTERIA Recreation Park when the Lions meet the Lutheran Men in softball play.

Plans for the event were made at a joint meeting of the old and new boards of the club held Tuesday evening at the home of the immediate past president, Mrs. W. B. Hickcox, 2417 Torrance Blvd.

Plans for the coming year also were discussed by the new president, Mrs. C. B. Walls, and her officers.

The new leaders are Mesdames Roy Peterson, first vice-president; A. E. McTeo, second vice-president; H. J. Osborne, secretary; A. Isen, treasurer; L. Spring, bulletin editor; Frank Jakubowski, assistant bulletin editor and hostess chairman; H. Bowman, hair puller; F. Boren, membership chairman; P. Radisch, telephone chairman; W. B. Hickcox, sunshine chairman; and A. F. R. Ewalt, publicity chairman.



MRS. HARRIETT LEECH . . . Only woman city officer

## MADRONA JOINS CITY PTA GROUP

With 38 charter members, the Madrona Ave. Elementary Parent-Teacher Association became the tenth in Torrance Council PTA at the June meeting held at Madrona School.

At that time a set of by-laws presented by Mrs. Nicholas Feodoruk was accepted, and officers were elected and installed.

Mrs. Thomas Smiley, who has served as temporary chairman during the organization process, is the new president.

Officers who will serve with her are Mesdames Louis Dyer, vice-president; John D'Ornellas, recording secretary; Jack Hadley, corresponding secretary; Ralph King, treasurer; William Crocker, historian; Charles Hornbeck, parliamentarian; and Mr. Chris Xanthakis, auditor.

Installing officer was Mrs. Elmer Soper, extension chairman of First District P.T.A.

Herman Schick, Madrona School principal, expressed pleasure over the completion of the organization.

Torrance Council was represented at the meeting by Mesdames Victor Benard, president; A. C. Turner, parliamentarian; and John Hinds, publicity. Mrs. John Patrick, president of Fern Ave. Greenwood P.T.A., also attended.

## G. Baers Holiday at Lake

Enjoying a summer vacation at Lake Mary are Mr. and Mrs. George E. Baer and daughter Marilyn, 1308 Cota Ave. They will spend part of the holiday with Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Christian of WALTERIA, who have been vacationing at the lake during the past week.

The Baers will return to Torrance today, while the Christians will remain at the lake for another week.

## Dollars and Cents

# Women Must Take Interest In Politics, Says City Treasurer

Politics is very much in the air these days, with the Republican convention just ended and the Democratic meeting about to begin, and Mrs. Harriett Leech, only woman municipal officer in Torrance, thinks women should take more interest in this phase of our national life.

### DON'T TAKE TIME

"Lots of women just won't bother," she said, "because their time and attention are too taken up with social life. I think they should make more of an effort to broaden their minds through politics."

Women should not only take interest in government, but they should also participate, Mrs. Leech believes. "I certainly think women are as competent as men are," she said, "and I have seen women in office do a much better job than their male predecessors."

In spite of her endorsement of the woman in political role, however, Mrs. Leech believes that politics have no part in her job of city treasurer.

### RUNNING PLATFORM

When first running for the office in 1938, she said, "The prime essentials of a city treasurer, as I understand it, are trustworthiness and competency. My past record is a business woman in Torrance should assure our citizens that I possess those qualifications. I am not now or will I be in the future connected with any group or faction. The office of city treasurer, in my opinion, should be kept free of politics as such, and the choice for the post should be based on integrity, business experience, and fidelity."

Time has done nothing to change that opinion.

### TWO TERMS

Mrs. Leech served as city treasurer from 1938-42 and was re-elected for another term which ended in 1946. She did not become a candidate for re-election, but was re-appointed to the position in Dec., 1951, when her successor, Mrs. Margaret Fordice, was declared incompetent by a Supreme Court ruling.

Her job, which was only a part-time one during those early years, has grown more complex in pace with the industrial and population growth of the city. The bond issues in WALTERIA, North Torrance, and South Torrance have added much more to her daily routine work. "I am in charge of all monies collected by the city," she said, "I sign all checks and make out the payroll."

### BOND BUSINESS

Biggest problem in her job comes from bond collections, she said. "When people send in

their money, they often neglect to enclose the bond number, or the city statement. This means that we have to write them a letter requesting the missing items."

The failure to enclose the necessary items is not so much a matter of absentmindedness as it is misinformation, she said. "People just don't seem to read their contracts," she said.

The brown-eyed treasurer formerly operated a "Flower Shop For Persons With Taste" on Marcellina. After her second term in office, she returned to the flower business, this time to La Galena shop.

"I've always liked flowers and I enjoy working with them," she said.

### MOTHER OF THREE

Mrs. Leech is the mother of three sons, Weston, a United Airlines pilot; Dick, a teacher at Torrance High School; and Bob employed at the Torrance Lumber Co. She is the widow of James Leech, manager of the Bank of America until his death in 1935.

A resident of Torrance for 26 years, she came originally from Tucson, Arizona, then to this city via Hermosa Beach. She is a former member of St. Cecilia's Guild of the Episcopal Church, and the Business and Professional Women's Club. She likes traveling of any kind, and hiking through the mountains and deserts.

"But when one works five days a week, eight hours a day she doesn't have much leisure time!" Mrs. Leech smiled. She does find a few spare moments, though, for knitting and growing African violets.

## Clinkscapes Are in Vallejo

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Clinkscale, 1451 El Prado, left yesterday to attend the funeral of his father, F. W. Clinkscale, 80, of Vallejo, who died Wednesday morning.

Word of his death reached the Clinkscapes just as they returned from a three-day holiday in San Francisco.

Two nieces from Cleveland, Okla., Mrs. Fred Brady and daughter, Luann, are spending the summer in the Clinkscale home.

# The Social World

AGNES BOLTER, Editor

## MRS. L. C. BURGER IS BRIDGE HOSTESS

Regular Thursday afternoon bridge club met this week at the home of Mrs. L. C. Burger, 1325 Arlington Ave., with Mrs. L. M. Fernley carrying home top honors for the day.

Mrs. H. Massie received the low score prize.

Attending the affair were Mesdames Earl Miles, Ambrose Silligo, Sara Isen, Ruth Rogers, R. E. Olsen, Fernley, Massie, and the hostess.

## LOS FIESTADORES GET FUN AND LAUGHS



DANCE DRESS . . . Members of Los Fiestadores Dance Club appeared at Club Alondra last night in untypical ball attire—whatever they happened to have on when the invitations were issued. Left to right are R. D. Bolen, Walt Levy,

Mrs. Helen Levy, Lloyd Jones, Mrs. Maxine Jones and Mrs. Penny Bolen. The "come as you are" affair was the regular monthly dance of the club. (Herald photo).

## Legion Group Holds Dinner, Card Meeting

Past Presidents Parlor of the American Legion Auxiliary gathered this week in the garden of Mrs. C. F. Olson, 2118 Arlington Ave., for a potluck dinner and an evening of cards.

Amidst blooming dahlias, daisies, and glads, guests played canasta and bridge. Top honors in canasta were won by Mrs. George Thompson, while Mrs. Herbert Robison won first prize for bridge.

Attending the garden event were Mesdames Wilbur Toombs, John Fess, Mabel Thompson, Josephine Hopkins, Dean Sears, Emma Evans, James Wilkes, Ronnie Lee, and her houseguest from Florida, Lorena Smith.

## BOARD MEETING SET

Board meeting of the Keystone Woman's Club will be held Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Torrance home of Mrs. Leandrus Stamps.

Plans will be made for fall sessions of the club following a noon luncheon. Regular meetings will be resumed in October.



BATHROBE BEAUTIES . . . Caught unaware, these members of Los Fiestadores showed up at the "come as you are" dance last night in lounging costume. Left to right are C. A. Woodcock, Mrs. Frances Woodcock, Robert Clayton, and Mrs. Inez Clayton. The affair was held at the Club Alondra from 9 to 12 p.m. (Herald photo).